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21 October 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE:

Subject: First Periodic Report on Activities of the  
Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Psychological Warfare.

1. The Subcommittee met at 1430 hours, 17 October 1947, Room 5013, New State Building.

2. The Army member presented a draft of a paper which the Under Secretary of the Army will present at the next meeting of the SANACC Thursday, 23 October 1947.

3. Briefly, this paper contains a recommendation that SWNCC 304/6 (a study of the wartime psychological warfare organization problem) be approved subject to the proviso that the question as to whom the Psychological Warfare Agency should report be deferred until the functioning of the National Security Council and the new SANACC become firm. It further suggests that the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Psychological Warfare be directed by SANACC to study the possibility of activating a Psychological Warfare Agency now as a matter of urgency.

4. Based on the above, and anticipating SANACC approval the Subcommittee prepared a preliminary study of the subject of establishing a peacetime psychological warfare. The highlights of this paper are as follows:

a. It calls attention to highly aggressive Russian tactics in the field of psychological warfare.

b. It specifically calls attention to an almost complete non-participation by the U. S. in this important field of activity.

c. It recommends strongly that a peacetime psychological Warfare Agency be activated now with full powers of coordination as a matter of urgency by Executive Order.

5. Prior to the meeting General Wright stated with reference to the paper that in its broad aspects CIA will concur subject to the following considerations.

a. That CIA objects to the name National Policy Agency as the name of the organization to implement psychological warfare activity. The word policy should be changed.

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b. That consideration should be given to operation of this agency under the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

6. Concerning the future activity of the Subcommittee on psychological warfare, the Chairman of the Subcommittee stated that he would recommend to SANACC that space and the required amount of clerical assistance be provided in the near future for full time committee work. The space will be provided by the State Department.

7. The above is presented for your information.

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